

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00463 200617Z

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 911

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0463

USIAC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS:

A LARGE SHARE OF MEDIA ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED AT THE US DURING EARLY PART OF THE WEEK WITH FORD BUDGET, PRE-INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES, SORENSON AND GILMORE CASE. ONLY GILMORE RATED EDITORIAL COMMENT. ALSO OF INTEREST WAS A FLURRY OF PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON BY AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENTS NOTING AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PARKINSON'S AIDE MEMOIRE TO SECSTATE-DESIGNATE VANCE WHICH QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THE AUSTRALIANS HAD BEEN "CHIVVYING THE AMERICAN PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY" FOR A YEAR ON OUR POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM, URGING THE US TO TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ENCOURAGING THE VIETNAMESE TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS. PARKINSON WAS ALSO QUOTED AS RUGING THE US TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE POLICY

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PAGE 02 CANBER 00463 200617Z

TOWARD THE PRC. HOWEVER, LIKE SO MANY EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, THE STORY DIED A NATURAL DEATH AFTER TWO DAYS

SYDNEY TRAIN DISASTER FULLY OCCUPIED MEDIA FOR THREE DAYS, PUSHING ALL OTHER NEWS TO THE BACK PAGES.

PROGRAM:

AFTER AN INITIAL REJECTION BY ABC AND THE COMMERCIAL NETWORKS, CHANNEL NINE IN SYDNEY ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF THE CARTER TV SATELLITE FEED AND WILL AIR IT AT PRIME TIME NATIONWIDE JAN. 21 LOCAL TIME.

A SPECIAL INAUGURATION SERVICE IS SCHEDULED FOR ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL IN SYDNEY WHICH WILL INCLUDE A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL SUPPLIED BY AGENCY AT SYDNEY'S REQUEST.

DIRECTOR, ADELAIDE FESTIVAL ALREADY HOT ON TRAIL OF POSSIBLE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN MARCH 1978 FESTIVAL. PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TWYLA THARP DANCE COMPANY (SEE CANBERRA 0093).

DR. HECTOR KINLOCH, READER IN AMERICAN HISTORY, ANU, AND ABC SPOKESMAN ON AMERICA, HAS RECEIVED EXCELLENT EVALUATIONS FROM SINGAPORE AND KUALA LUMPUR, WHERE HE FULFILLED VOLSPKR ENGAGEMENTS EN ROUTE HYDERABAD BICENTENNIAL CAPSTONE AMSTUDIES SEMINAR. AT SEMINAR KINLOCH DUE DELIVER PAPER ON "CHICAGO, AUGUST 1968: NATIONAL TRAUMA OR NATIONAL CONTINUITY".

USIS CANBERRA'S VIDEOTAPE PROMOTIONS PICKING UP AGAIN AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAK. NEW SERIES OF LUNCHTIME SHOWINGS SCHEDULED BEGIN JANUARY 26. FIRST THREE PROGRAMS ON GENERAL ARTS TOPICS WILL INCLUDE NEW SCHECHNER/MACINTOSH ENVIRONMENTAL THEATRE VTR. WILL BE FOLLOWED BY WEEKLY INSTALLMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CANBER 00463 200617Z

ALISTAIR COOKE'S AMERICA SERIES, DUE TO RUN THRU MAY. CURRENT AUDIENCE FROM AMONGST FORTY PRIMARY ARS MEMBERS IN ARTS/MEDIA/AMSTUDIES FIELDS. USIS CANBERRA HAS BEEN INVITED CONTRIBUTE ART WORKS TO UPCOMING CANBERRA WEEK INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION PLANNED MARCH 7-14 1977. PROPOSE USE SMALL SELECTION OF HIGH QUALITY CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PRINTS WHICH HELD USIS PREMISES CANBERRA, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE. MOUNT

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